3. All proposals relating to acquisition of shares in an existing Indian company in favour of a foreign/NRI/OCB investor.

4. All proposals falling outside notifed sectoral policy/caps or under sectors in which FDI is not permitted and/or whenever any investor chooses to make an application to the FIPB and not to avail of the automatic route.

All propsals for investment in public sector units as also for EOU/ EPZ/EHTP/STP units would qualify for automatic route subject to above parameters.

(c) The guidelines were issued on 11-2-2000. The liberalisation of FDI policy is generally welcomed by the foreign investors.

(d) The total number of propsals involving foreign direct investment approved during the period August, 1991 to December, 1999 is 10,237.

**Independent Export Promotion Council for Drugs and Pharmaceuticals**

3087. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMECRE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to constitute an independent Export Promition Council for bulk drugs and pharmaceuticals with headquarters at Hyderabad to boost international trade in drugs and pharmaceuticals; and

(b) if so, by when a final decision will be taken keeping in view the special needs of pharmaceutical industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme for Bihar**

3088. SHRI S.S AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMECRE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether with a view to promoting clusters of units in rural and backward areas of Bihar, Government have sanctioned some projects under the Intergrated Infrastuctural Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if answer to Part (a) be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the IID Scheme, the State Government/UT concerned is required to first select suitable site in the rural/backward area, firm up project proposal and get the project proposal appraised by SIDBI. The recommendations of the SIDBI on the proposal are then considered by the Government for sanction.

No proposal from the Government of Bihar for setting up IID Centre in Bihar has so far been received inspite of bringing the Scheme to the notice of all State Governments/UTs in the country.

**Capital Investment in NER**

3089. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA : Will the Minister of COMMECRE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the effective measures being taken by Government to encourage capital investment in the NER, particularly in the State of Assam; and

(b) the details of capital investment made by multinational companies in NER during the last three years and till-date; sector-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Government has announced a new industrial policy for the North-Eastern Region on 24th December, 1997 to encourage capital investment and thereby promote industrialisation of the region. The component of the policy are :

1. The Transport Subsidy Scheme has been extended up to March 2007 for the NE Region.

2. Under the Growth Centre Scheme, central assistance up to Rs. 15 crore is provided to each growth centre set up in the North-East. So far 8 growth centres have been approved for the N.E., 2 specifically for Assam being Chariduar and Matia.